



OFFICE OF MAYOR LORI E. LIGHTFOOT

CITY OF CHICAGO

October 24, 2019

Matt Chapman
MuckRock.com
81482-54845066@requests.muckrock.com

Dear Mr. Chapman:

On behalf of the City of Chicago Office of the Mayor (“Mayor’s Office”), I am responding to your Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) request received in our offices on October 10, for which this office requested an extension on October 17, 2019, in which you ask for:

All records, memos, communications and reports, or general information where there are discussions, descriptions, statements, or otherwise general information on the \$1M in savings from the following press release statement:

“The departmental merger, still subject to City Council approval, will take effect in 2020, and all occupied positions will be retained or transitioned in the new structure. The estimated savings are approximately \$1M, and the City expects additional efficiencies and savings over time.”

https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/mayor/press_room/press_releases/2019/october/ProposalDoIT2FMMerger.html

There is significant worry from the civics community, including Chicago’s ex Chief Data Officer that this merger will be disastrous:

<https://twitter.com/tomschenkjr/status/1182049708199628802>. As such, the burden from this request is far outweighed by the public’s interest.

Your request is unduly burdensome, as it does not provide a timeframe, specific search terms, or custodians. To the extent that your request if for emails, in order to effectively run an email search, the Mayor’s Office needs the following search parameters: (1) the email address(es) or employee name(s) of the account(s) you wish searched; (2) key words you wish to search for; and (3) the timeframe to be searched. Without search parameters, we would need to review all department emails to determine whether any are responsive to your request. Such an undertaking would pose an immense burden on the department.

Section 3(g) of FOIA provides that “[r]equests calling for all records falling within a category shall be complied with unless compliance with the request would be unduly burdensome for the complying public body and there is no way to narrow the request and

the burden on the public body outweighs the public interest in the information." 5 ILCS 140/3(g).

The FOIA provides in 5 ILCS 140/3(g) that requests for all records falling within a category shall be complied with unless compliance with the request would be unduly burdensome for the complying body and there is no way to narrow the request and the burden on the public body outweighs the public interest in the information.

Therefore, it is necessary for your request to be narrowed. If you would like assistance in narrowing your request, please contact me and I will assist you. Otherwise, as explained above, we will be unable to respond to your current request.

If you agree to narrow your request, you must submit a revised written request to my attention. The Mayor's Office will take no further action or send you any further correspondence unless and until your current request is narrowed in writing. If we do not receive your narrowed request within fourteen (14) calendar days of the date of this letter, your current request will be denied.

In the event that we do not receive a narrowed request and your current FOIA request is therefore denied, you have the right to have a denial reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, 500 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706, (877) 299-3642. You also have the right to seek judicial review of your denial by filing a lawsuit in Cook County Circuit Court.

Sincerely,
/s/ Anjali Julka
FOIA Officer